(b) by when these highways are scheduled to be completed; and

(c) the amount to be spent on these two projects separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Golden Quadrilateral part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is scheduled to be completed by December 2003 one year ahead of the initial schedule and North- South and East-West component by December 2007.

(c) The estimated amount to be spent on NHDP is Rs. 54,000 crores. Out of this an amount of approximately Rs. 25,000 crore is proposed to be spent on Golden Quadrilateral and the remaining on North-South & East-West corridor.

National Highways Policy

2718. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Highways Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) It is the policy of the Government of India to develop and maintain the roads declared as National Highways by taking up improvement works like widening to 2/4 lanes, strengthening, construction of bypasses, reconstruction of bridges/culverts etc. based on traffic needs and inter-se priority through financing by budgetary resources, Central Road Fund, external assistance and private sector participation.

(c) Does not arise.

Completion of work of NH-53

2719. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how long it would take to complete work of NH-53 from Jiribam to Imphal with construction of bridges;

(b) the present progress of the work; and

(c) the amount so far spent and allotment for the year 2001-2002 for the NH-53?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The improvement works including construction of bridges on Jiribam-Imphal section of NH-53 are at various